



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 12, 2013

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. This week saw several days of rain, ranging from 0.5 to 3 inches in different parts of the state, which really helped crops as the rainfall was much needed. Some areas even saw snow and hail, which is not good for crops this early in the season. Farmers are getting more corn and soybeans planted into fields and the early planted corn is starting to emerge. With the nice weather these past couple weeks, most fields have been plowed and many crops are being planted but there is still plenty of work to be done. The first alfalfa cuttings were underway after last week, where there were warm temperatures and crops really started to grow. This coming week, colder temperatures are expected and there are frost and freeze warnings out for much of Pennsylvania. Most fruit trees are past bloom and hopefully the colder temperatures do not damage the fruit trees or any of the other crops. Field activities for the week included field preparation for planting,; plowing; planting of corn, soybeans and finishing up planting other crops; cutting alfalfa and other forage. Spring plowing is getting more underway and is 86% complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 12, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	21	60	18

Crop Progress: Corn is 48% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 53% but ahead of the 5-year average of 45% planted. Corn is 9% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 20% and the 5-year average of 15% planted. Barley is 48% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 96% and the 5-year average of 79% headed. Winter wheat is 30% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 63% and the 5-year average of 36% headed. Oats are 93% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 98% but ahead of the 5-year average of 86% planted. Oats are 67% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 89% but ahead of the 5-year average of 62% planted. Soybeans are 17% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 24% and the 5-year average of 18% planted. Potatoes are 60% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 64% but ahead of the 5-year average of 45% planted. Alfalfa first cutting is 8% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 26% and the 5-year average of 15% cut.

Crop Condition: Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 50% good, and 27% excellent. Oats conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 31% fair, 43% good, and 26% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 63% good, and 9% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 51% good, and 15% excellent. Quality of Hay made conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 3% fair, 14% good and 83% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 3% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 41% good and 22% excellent. Peaches conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 89% good and 11% excellent. Apples conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 100% good and 0% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 5, 2013: Above-average temperatures dominated much of the Pacific Coast and an area stretching from the eastern Corn

Belt into New England. Elsewhere, unseasonably cool weather, coupled with heavy precipitation, limited fieldwork and crop development. Most notably, portions of the Midwest accumulated late-season snow, while others received drenching rain. Isolated locations in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida received rainfall in excess of 7 inches during the week. Conversely, much of the West remained dry, causing increased drought concerns for producers in California and the Four Corners region. Corn: By May 5, producers had planted 12 percent of this year's corn crop, 57 percentage points behind last year and 35 points behind the 5-year average. Despite increased fieldwork throughout much of the major corn-producing region, overall planting progress continued at the slowest pace since 1984. In Iowa, producers took advantage of warmer early-week weather and planted 6 percent of their crop before cold, snowy weather forced them out of their fields toward week's end. Nationally, emergence advanced to 3 percent by May 5, twenty-six percentage points behind last year and 12 points behind the 5-year average. This represents the slowest emergence pace on since records began in 1999. Soybeans: By week's end, 2 percent of the nation's soybean crop was planted, 20 percentage points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. Planting was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley; however, progress in that region was well behind normal due to unfavorable planting conditions earlier this spring. Winter Wheat: Heading of the winter wheat crop advanced to 20 percent by May 5, forty-four percentage points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. With growth limited by unseasonably cool weather in many of the major producing states, this represents the slowest development pace since 1993. In Texas, many winter wheat fields were being baled for hay due to damage caused by dry, windy, or sub-freezing conditions. Overall, 32 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 31 percentage points below the same time last year. Other Small Grains: By May 5, oat producers had sown 57 percent of the nation's crop, 36 percentage points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding in Minnesota and North Dakota advanced 8 percentage points, as producers maximized a limited number of days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Nationally, 39 percent of the oat crop had emerged by week's end, 36 percentage points behind last year and 17 points behind the 5-year average. Forty-four percent of this year's barley crop was seeded by May 5. This was 34 percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding in Minnesota and North Dakota was underway but well behind both last year and the normal pace due to lingering unfavorable weather conditions. Nationwide, 14 percent of the barley crop had emerged by week's end, 18 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. By week's end, producers had sown 23 percent of the spring wheat crop, 59 percentage points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding was 28 percentage points or more behind normal in Minnesota and the Dakotas, as unseasonable weather continued to hamper fieldwork. Nationally, 5 percent of the spring wheat crop had emerged by May 5, thirty-eight percentage points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 12, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 12, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	77	38	60	7	0.91	4	3.40	-1.09	20	238	145	528
Franklin_AG	77	36	60	6	0.61	4	5.78	0.85	17	235	143	534
Meadville-Port	75	34	60	7	0.70	4	3.79	-0.89	21	260	186	572
Clarion	74	34	57	2	1.09	4	5.11	-0.01	17	169	55	450
Springboro	76	33	59	5	1.06	4	5.12	0.77	18	209	108	487
Warren	77	35	59	5	0.52	4	3.63	-1.34	20	201	118	490
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	35	57	7	0.86	4	4.02	-0.80	20	189	140	474
Oswayo	75	30	56	5	1.48	4	3.75	-0.72	15	124	59	376
Kane	75	33	56	6	1.49	4	5.68	0.56	18	134	87	394
Laporte	72	37	56	2	1.87	4	5.41	0.69	16	105	2	369
Lock Haven	77	40	59	5	1.74	5	4.91	0.50	13	207	91	516
Coudersport_1SW	74	30	56	4	1.52	5	4.94	0.47	17	116	51	381
Renovo	78	39	60	5	1.53	5	5.07	0.66	15	213	97	515
Ridgway	77	35	56	5	1.18	5	5.62	0.59	17	163	105	444
Stevenson Dam	76	38	58	7	1.10	5	4.21	-0.82	16	173	115	462
Towanda	76	37	58	4	0.66	3	4.02	-0.20	12	138	33	427
Wellsboro	73	39	56	5	1.78	4	5.08	1.58	15	99	48	370
Williamsport	78	40	61	5	1.67	5	5.22	0.58	15	238	83	573
Northeast												
Hawley	76	35	57	5	1.62	5	4.35	-0.58	17	111	46	372
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	76	39	62	6	0.92	4	2.81	-1.49	13	239	112	565
Susquehanna	76	37	59	7	1.27	4	4.39	-0.75	15	132	76	411
West Central												
Butler	77	37	59	5	0.86	4	5.20	0.52	19	233	121	532
New Castle	76	36	59	5	0.64	2	4.45	0.14	14	248	148	552
Slippery Rock	81	34	60	7	1.00	3	4.53	0.07	14	272	184	571
Central												
Altoona/Blair	73	41	59	3	1.39	5	4.65	0.15	17	259	118	588
DuBois	74	35	59	5	0.70	4	3.23	-1.55	15	239	146	546
Lewistown	75	42	60	3	2.22	5	4.98	0.55	14	260	87	600
Middletown	79	41	62	3	1.76	5	4.06	-0.78	15	278	74	638
Prince Gallitzi	74	41	58	5	1.20	5	3.48	-2.56	16	206	122	514
Selinsgrove	74	38	58	3	2.01	5	5.06	0.48	14	194	57	516
State College	71	43	59	3	2.15	5	5.70	1.49	17	223	99	546
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	79	43	63	5	1.26	4	4.35	-0.77	14	256	95	603
Lehighton	78	40	60	3	1.01	5	4.63	-0.28	16	176	24	501
Matamoras	77	39	59	4	1.72	5	3.90	-1.74	12	164	42	474
Mt_Pocono	73	39	58	8	1.61	5	4.13	-1.70	15	127	81	405
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	39	61	5	1.04	4	4.00	-0.80	15	357	214	704
Indiana_PA	73	39	60	4	1.42	5	4.34	-0.94	14	291	154	621
Myersdale	77	41	55	-1	3.17	6	5.64	0.01	16	161	51	455
Chalk_Hill	75	42	56	-2	2.17	5	4.36	-1.05	16	201	34	501
Pittsburgh Intl	79	38	61	5	0.68	4	4.03	-0.44	15	343	183	679
Connellsville	76	41	58	1	1.56	5	3.86	-1.55	18	241	74	560
Waynesburg	78	41	59	4	1.55	5	3.15	-1.81	14	256	127	573
South Central												
Biglerville	81	39	58	-2	1.85	5	4.00	-0.80	15	251	48	601
Everett	76	35	57	2	2.01	6	4.91	0.14	17	209	81	525
Hanover	82	36	59	0	1.71	4	4.26	-0.54	16	240	37	583
Harrisburg_AP	79	39	62	3	1.96	5	4.37	-0.47	15	283	76	648
South Mountain	77	38	55	-2	3.00	6	5.64	1.14	15	161	25	475
York	80	34	60	1	1.99	5	3.24	-1.75	13	258	48	590
Southeast												
Green Lane	80	41	61	5	2.36	5	5.84	0.53	13	231	82	575
Hamburg	79	41	61	6	2.06	4	5.33	-0.33	16	236	123	577
West_Chester	82	41	61	3	2.28	5	5.25	-0.26	13	231	36	568
Lancaster	80	39	61	4	0.98	5	3.52	-1.35	15	240	75	578
Neshaminy Falls	84	43	63	6	1.79	6	4.52	-1.23	16	250	89	606
New Holland	82	40	62	5	1.55	5	4.58	-0.29	14	275	110	636
Philadelphia	83	45	65	5	1.65	4	4.16	-0.93	14	351	123	730
Philadelphia NE	81	44	63	3	1.41	4	3.99	-1.10	15	283	55	645
Reading	82	44	64	7	2.29	4	4.90	-0.59	14	304	155	670
Sellersville	80	42	61	5	1.94	4	5.83	0.52	13	219	70	545
Doylestown_AG	83	45	63	5	1.98	4	5.64	-0.11	14	257	96	610

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS County, Lee Showalter

Apples are mostly in petal fall. The bloom was generally good with some good pollinating days.

ADAMS County, Judy A. Behney

Adams County had a pretty nice week of weather. York Springs receive 0.75" on Tuesday and another inch on Wednesday. Other parts of the county received just rain on Tuesday of about an inch. Thunderstorms came through Wednesday early evening in the county but not all parts of county received rainfall. Some hail was reported around New Oxford Wednesday evening.

Corn and soybeans are being planted in the county. Some delay in planting due to rainfall Tuesday/Wednesday. Wheat and barley and other small grains are looking pretty good but they are all short in height. Producers are stating their will be lower yields for straw since it is short. Some forage crops are being chopped throughout the county mostly by dairy producers. Hay is starting to grow and producers are hoping with this week's moisture and future days of heat will make it get some height.

Fruit crops have now all bloomed in the county. Most of the fruit had pretty nice blooms in hopes of good yields this year but time will tell. Forecast for next week are colder temperatures. Vegetables are being planted in the county also. Strawberries are in bloom. Overall the producers are busy in the fields when field conditions permit and anxious to get crops planted. Some producers are concerned that the soil moisture level is not all that great for this early in the growing season.

BUTLER County, L Fritz

Lots of planting being done. Hay and pastures are not growing; much- rain needed.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Wet week, 1.75" in my gage. Corn is starting to emerge.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Many acres prepared for spring planting. Wheat looks great. Rye being harvested

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Showers this week amounted to over 1 inch, slowed chopping alfalfa and plantings. Pastures look best in several years. Fruit growers are anxious about expected cold weather after Mother's day. Fruit is very tender at this stage.

LEBANON County, Charlene Zeigler

The entire county received rain during the week. The amounts varied with 1.6 inches in the northern section and .5 inch in the southern end. Corn is emerging but a lot of fields must still be planted. Soybeans planted a few weeks ago have finally emerged but, like the corn, a lot of fields must still be planted. Small grains for silage were still being harvested.

LANCASTER County, Jeffrey Graybill

Early corn and beans which have emerged have excellent uniform stands. Many farmers cutting Triticale/ryegrass stands last week. Some powdery mildew on small grains.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

We received 1 inch of rainfall over the weekend and it was much needed. There are frost-freeze warnings in the weather forecast for the mornings of May 13 and May 14. The crops planted this past week had ideal soil-moisture conditions. Spray applicators also had ideal conditions. Corn and soybean planters and operators worked overtime at the tasks at hand. I even had Amish neighbors spraying herbicides on field corn with horses Thursday night at 10:30 pm before the rain arrived.

PERRY County, David L. Swartz

Small grain crops were harvested for silage at the beginning of this week. Yield was about 25% of normal due to extremely dry and cool conditions. By week's end, conditions changed with 2 inches of precipitation occurring this week.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Rainfall amounts throughout the area ranged from normal to extremely heavy for the week. The barley has headed and is looking good. Alfalfa weevils are feeding heavily in some fields and will require spraying. Most of the rye has been harvested and put in silos. Planting, spraying, and machine maintenance were the main activities for the week.

SOMERSET County, Dale Kriner (NRCS)

There was snow falling in Somerset on Sunday. While traveling over the weekend, I saw sections of barley fields in both the Carlisle and Lancaster areas that were flattened.

UNION County, James Brubaker

Very wet – over 3" of rain this week so far.

WESTMORELAND County, Tom Sierzega

Dry, warm conditions most of week; wet, cool conditions at end of week. Much corn and soybean prep and planting this past week. Rain at end of week welcomed as it was getting dry.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 12, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	86	92	75
Corn, planted	48	53	45
Corn, emerged	9	20	15
Barley, heading or headed	48	96	79
Wheat, heading or headed	30	63	36
Oats, planted	93	98	86
Oats, emerged	67	89	62
Soybeans, planted	17	24	18
Potatoes, planted	60	64	45
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	8	26	15

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 12, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	2	21	50	27
Oats	0	0	31	43	26
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	25	63	9
Timothy clover stand	0	3	31	51	15
Quality of hay made	0	0	3	14	83
Pasture	3	5	29	41	22
Peaches	0	0	0	89	11
Apples	0	0	0	100	0

Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. *Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.* For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

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